GOING TO THE FAIR?

If You Are These Facts May Interest You.

BOATS AND TRAINS IN CHICAGO

The Money Side of a Visit to the Columbian Show—Railroad Fares, Board, Lodging, Fees, Etc.

Perhaps you have put off indefinitely the question as to whether or not you are going to the fair. Probably most people have. But everybody is in a frame of mind to receive information that may help to the solution of the problem when the question is taken up. Even those who have conservatively said that they scarcely expect to go, or that they won't go, do not despise a glimpse at hotel or boarding house rates and fares in general.

Undoubtedly as many people are overestimating as are underestimating

CIRCUIT RAILROAD AND CALIFORNIA BUILDING.

the cost of visiting the fair. If you cannot go for a song it is also true that it will cost considerably less than a fortune.

What will it cost?

Well, it depends a good deal on what part of the country you are living in, for railroad fares are the big item to anybody living far from the Windy city. There has been much sanguine talk as to fares—as to cut rates, excursions, specialties, etc. But it must be remembered that these expectations are generally too sanguine. Railways cannot carry people for nothing, or for the excitement of having crowded cars. The great lines have already been very busy and it is estimated that many of them will have all they can carry in a few weeks even should the rates remain unchanged. There will, however, be reductions in rates everywhere, not great reductions, but modifications that will reduce the traveling expense of visiting the fair about one-third. Of course there will be special excursions that will cut the figure still lower, but these will be the exception.

Railway fares are an item of expense that is quickly determinable. Every one is in a position to find out what they will amount to. What everybody wants to know just now is what must I spend at Chicago?

The question is not easy to answer, because you may spend as much as you like at Chicago if not as little as you like.

Let us look first at the matter of lodgings. People who suppose that there is any likelihood of scarcity of room in Chicago are greatly mistaken. Chicago has about seven hundred and fifty hotels. These are good, bad and indifferent, of course, like the hotels of any other city, and are scattered over the area of a city that sprawls considerably. Many of these hotels have recently increased their accommodations. It was said of the Tremont house, in Chicago's earlier days, that one of the amusements of its guests was to sit in the doorway and shoot wild ducks in the neighboring swamps. This season the hotel loungers are going to sit in the doorway and watch the world's fair visitors wrestle for rooms.

Unless rooms are engaged in advance it is going to be a precarious matter looking for quarters at the better class of Chicago hotels this summer. So far as rates go there will not be much of any rise here; so that the item of hotel expenses can easily be figured up by estimating the conventional rates—from two to ten dollars a day.

Very early in the game Chicago awoke to the possibilities of the furnished room line of trade. The South side in the vicinity of Jackson park was stormed by speculative renters and boarding house keepers. Thousands of people gave up their houses in this part of the city in order

FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE FAIR.

to rent them to "roomers" during the summer. Rents took a tremendous jump. A young man in the official service of the fair told me recently that on April 1 his landlord raised his rent from forty dollars a month to one hundred and twenty dollars. This was a polite way of telling him that they want the place for a boarding house.

Not only did the commercial spirit of Chicago realize its opportunity in this direction, but people from all parts of the country have swooped down upon the town to speculate on the world's fair visitors' need of food and shelter. Your boarding house keeper is as likely to belong to Peekskill or Philadelphia as Cook county.

An immense number of gilded barracks have been slapped into shape within the past few months. Many of these have been in the shape of rough dormitories with big dining rooms on a kind of picnic plan added thereto. There are rooms, rooms everywhere. There is board everywhere till you can't rest. There are meals everywhere; "table d'hote" restaurants everywhere.

These places are advertised on a defensive plan that seems to indicate that Chicago realizes that a suspicion is abroad. The signs are reassuring. [illegible] to be buncoed, say these signs. One reads: "Our desire is to please and not to rob." "We do not want the earth," says another. "Only modest prices," says a third; and so on. You are told that "one trial will convince you that this is the place to get a square meal." Prices are freely advertised, and there is a promise that they are not going to rise.

What are these prices? I asked an occupant of a flat in Jefferson avenue yesterday what would be the cost of a little hall bedroom, without board, for a week. "Ten dollars," said the occupant. Small rooms in private houses will sometimes cost less and sometimes more than that; generally more in good neighborhoods. The speculative dormitories called hotels that cluster adjacent to the fair grounds will give small rooms for one dollar and two dollars a day. With board the same rooms will cost two, three and four dollars. If you can find them there are boarding-houses in plenty that will give room and board for eight dollars, ten dollars and twelve dollars a week. Those that are most convenient to the grounds will, on the average, be found poorer in quality and higher in price than those nearer the heart of the city; but the expense in getting to and from the exhibition grounds to be considered here. People who will stay at home in the evenings will be at an advantage near the grounds. Those who wish to knock about Chicago in the evenings—and there will be plenty to see this summer with all the theaters, including one underground, museums and cycloramas, not to mention Libby prison, in full blast—might as well be nearer the heart of the city and make up their minds to a morning and evening journey to and from the fair.

Contracts for rooms without board will be much safer than any other sort, for the feasting in Chicago this summer is not always going to be exactly sumptuous. A little disappointment in the size of the room or in the character of its furnishings will not be so much of a tragedy, but one or two meals such as I encountered at an alleged hotel near the Fifty-seventh street entrance will discolor your visit if it does not darken your life. There are a multitude of places at which to

FAKIRS AT THE GATE.

eat; course dinners can be had for "twenty-five cents up." The twenty-five-cent dinner is to be had on a "meal ticket" and is a solemn, heterogeneous and greasy affair. Table d'hotes at fifty cents litter the South Chicago landscape. Meals at a dollar are not always likely to be encouraging, for as the season grows the service will diminish; but they are possibly as good as can be expected.

Although the restaurants within the fair grounds are all under the control of one catering company, various prices prevail, according to the location of the place. The service is uniformly a la carte and for fifty cents a reasonable luncheon may be had. If present signs are really prophetic the service will be decidedly inferior before the season is over. In addition to the regular restaurants there are a number of tea houses and the like where a good many people will take a nibble to tide them over until the evening dinner hour.

The fair grounds are a considerable distance from the heart of Chicago. They are reached by the railroad on the lake shore, the cable cars and the recently finished elevated road. A five-cent fare prevails on all but the lake shore road. The grounds will also be reached by boats running from mid-Chicago and north Chicago and landing at the pier within the ground. Every visitor to the fair should make a point of approaching the grounds at least once from the lake in this way. There is no distinction about any of the vistas presented to one who enters by the back doors, as it were. To approach the fair from the lake is to approach it from the point toward which its ensemble is directed. The fares on these lake boats will be something like twenty-five cents for the round trip.

The entrance fee at the fair gate is, as everybody now knows, fifty cents. This covers the whole expense of seeing the fair in general. It admits you to all the big exhibition buildings and all except the private shows. It admits the visitors to the big side show section in Midway Plaisance, though not to the individual side shows. In fact, to the general visitor the fifty cents "gate money" is the only tax. If you carry a hand camera of any kind you are stopped at the gate and sent along to buy a tag permit, which costs you two dollars a day. The moral to the amateur photographer is to take his camera with him only on a very fine day, and then to "shoot" from morning till night. I understand there are to be facilities for changing photographic plates. The photographic restrictions have made more trouble at the fair than any other from which the fair management undertook to swell their income. The management was long since heartily sick of its contract to let Photographer Arnold rule the picture making.

MATT LAMAR.

OLDEST LIVING TWINS.

They Reside in a Pretty Little Town Near Chicago.

Up in the picturesque little town of Glen Ellyn, twenty-two miles from Chicago, live the oldest twins in the world—Mrs. Ackerman and Mrs. Christian—who February 15 last celebrated their ninety-first birthday.

These twins, says the Chicago Tribune, have other distinguishing features in addition to that of age. They do not look alike and insist that at no time was there anything more than a mere family resemblance between them. Neither did they follow the custom of twins and dress alike, nor were their likes and dislikes similar.

Mrs. Ackerman lives with her niece, Mrs. Hattie Wimpress, and Mrs. Christian with her youngest son, William Christian. For the last fifty years the old ladies have lived on adjoining farms and until a few years ago Mrs. Ackerman took care of her own house and milked a cow. Both are now quite feeble and Mrs. Ackerman admits that her memory is not what it used to be.

Their maiden name was Churchill and their ancestors came from England, some of them coming in the famous Mayflower. The family counts among its treasures several pieces of china used by the rugged pioneers. The father of the twins, Winslow Churchill,

OLDEST TWINS IN THE WORLD.

was born in Rutland, Vt., in 1770, and their mother, Mary Dodge, in 1774. They moved to Onondaga county, N. Y., and settled on a farm, where they remained thirty years. It was there, in the log cabin house built by the father, that the twins first saw the light of day.

They are now two quaint little old women, looking slight and frail, with placid, kindly faces and snow-white hair drawn smoothly down under black lace caps. Mrs. Ackerman dresses in black, Mrs. Christian in gray—but the soft, old-fashioned silk 'kerchief folded around the neck and crossing on the breast is worn by both.

Mrs. Christian has been twice married. Her first husband, a Mr. Ketcham, living only eleven months after their union, leaving her with a son, who now lives on a farm just across the road from the mother. Several years later she married the man whose name she now bears, but who has been dead forty-eight years.

Sitting in an old-fashioned rocker she chats of her early life in New York state, of the comfortable log cabin house, and especially of the "loom room," where the hum and whir of wheels made music from morn till night. From a little wooden box filled with old daguerreotypes and relics of the past she produces a "spindle boy" made of white maple wood, given to her by an uncle when she was a rosy-cheeked girl. As she holds it in her hand memory takes swift leaps backward, she stands once more beside the wheel, and with kindling eye and deft hand she shows how by this little piece of wood the big wheel was kept in motion.

In reply to a question about the boys of that period the old lady naively remarked: "O, I guess boys were about the same then as now; they liked to be where the girls were. Although we worked hard we had some good times. Occasionally we went to singing school and we had 'bees' and 'sugaring off' parties. My first wedding was a great gathering, but the last one we just stood up and got married with only four witnesses."

In 1835 her parents moved to Illinois, took up land, and made another log-cabin home, which is still standing only a short distance from where the old ladies now live. Four years later Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman, who had remained in New York, started west, and she gives a graphic description of the journey. "I sat in this very chair (giving an affectionate pat on the arm) up in the wagon all those long and tedious weeks." The chair is a straight-back rush-bottom rocker, and belonged to her grandmother.

Mrs. Christian has her second sight and reads without the aid of glasses. She has been reading the Bible through by course this winter, and quite recently committed to memory the third chapter of Colossians. Her memory is remarkably good. She has not been in Chicago since 1873 and has never been on a street car.

Mrs. Ackerman has difficulty in talking because of "a shortness of breath," but she speaks with pride of the work she accomplished in her younger days—of how in one summer and winter she spun 300 yards of cotton and wool—a yard wide. This is how she sums up the people of the present day: "I think folks are smart and like to dress, and they have a little of everything."

The twins always spend their birthday together, and their relatives and friends give them a royal time. Bradford Churchill, a brother, lives with them. On the 15th of last September he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding.

Triplets Three Times.

Mrs. Ellsworth Miller, of Cold Springs, N. Y., has just become the happy mother of her third set of triplets, the invoice this time including two boys and a girl. All are doing well. Mrs. Miller, for a young woman, has an extraordinary maternal record. She was married October 10, 1883, being then twenty-one years of age. She has had sixteen children in the ten years, of whom seven, including the new triplets, are living. Of the nine who have died, four were triplets and five were singles. The new triplets promise to be more vigorous than their predecessors, and it is hoped will grow up.

A Genuine Sensation.

First Dramatic Reporter—Say, did you hear that sensation about Mme. Primadonna's diamonds?

Second Dramatic Reporter—What, are they stolen again?

First Dramatic Reporter—No; they're real.—Leslie's Weekly.

The Small Toe Must Go.

Physicians have at last decided that the small toe of the human foot must go—that civilization tends gradually to crowd it out of existence and to depend more than ever for locomotion upon the big toe.

A Vast Difference.

Winterset—This trunk will do.

Clerk—But it is only half the size of the one you got for yourself before.

Winterset—I'm married now.—Judge.

The Proper Book.

Barber—What would you like to read, sir, while I am shaving you?

Briggs—Fox's Martyrs.—Brooklyn Life.

A WORD OF WARNING

Don't Neglect the Children—Catarrh Leads to Deafness in Children as Well as in Adults.

All Cases Cured by Dr. Rankin When Brought to Him in Time—His Treatment Acknowledged Peer of All.

The remarkable frequency of deafness in children, in this climate, should prove a warning to parents to have their children examined by an expert physician in catarrhal troubles. A large per cent of these cases can be cured entirely by Dr. Rankin's method and every case materially helped. These little ones will sometime be men or women and if they have a permanent deafness as the result of neglect, the parents are to blame. Don't calm your fears by the hope the child will outgrow the catarrh, for it is a false hope. Exhibit the wisdom of Mr. and Mrs. Hancock.

Few people who live in the neighborhood of 168 West Broadway or transact business with the freight department of the Lake Shore railroad but are acquainted with Mr. S. Hancock. He is one of the trusted employes of that road and has held his position for years. In speaking of catarrhal difficulties he said:

GEORGE HANCOCK, 168 W. BROADWAY.

"I never realized until my wife and son began treatment for catarrh with Dr. Rankin what remarkable results a skillful physician can accomplish with catarrh and its attendant evils. The doctor has already benefited my wife to an amazing extent, and I think he has cured my boy George, entirely. George had been troubled with catarrh for some time and it had affected his hearing quite badly. He seemed to be gradually growing worse, too, instead of better. He had all the symptoms of a bad cold all the time. Dr. Rankin put him under treatment and inside of a month had cured him. His hearing now seems to be normal and it also seems to be a permanent thing, as he has suffered no relapse since he ceased the treatment. I have begun a course of treatment with the doctor, too, for a throat trouble and it is helping me right along. I would strongly advise parents who have children with catarrh or deafness to take them to Dr. Rankin, as his treatment is one that any child can take.

References to five hundred cured patients in this city alone.

Dr. Rankin is a graduate of Ann Arbor, and has had years of experience in his specialties.

CHARGES $5.00 A MONTH!

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Are Permanently Located at
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Catarrh, Asthma, Bronchitis, etc., treated in a new and scientific manner. Diseases of Kidney, Stomach, Bowels, Nervous Diseases, etc. Consultation, examination and one treatment free.

CATARRH CURED.

Office Hours—9 to 11:30 a. m., 1 to 5 p. m., 7 to 8 p. m.; Sundays, 1 to 3 p. m.

Patients at a distance successfully treated by mail. When writing inclose 4 cents in stamps for synopsis and symptoms blank.

Address
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